
**Analysis of the Poll Surveys and Feedback Received from
The Avoidable Deaths Network’s Special Session entitled:
“Let’s Talk About Avoidable Deaths: Views from Multiple Sectors”**

Background

The Avoidable Deaths Network organised its first Special Session titled “**Let’s Talk About Avoidable Deaths: Views from Multiple Sectors**”, in collaboration with Makerere University, Uganda at the ‘International Conference on Geographical Science for Resilient Communities, Ecosystems and Livelihoods under Global Environmental Change’ (G.O.R.I.L.L.A. Conference).

The Session was held virtually on 4 December 2020 and lasted 2.5 hours from 11 AM to 1.30 PM GMT.

The Session was delivered by five esteemed speakers:

- 1) **Prof. Prabhat Jha** (Founding Director, Centre for Global Health Research, University of Toronto). Prof. Jha, the keynote speaker, presented on “Avoidable Mortality in India: Lessons from the Million Death Study”.
- 2) **Mr. Gowri Shankar** (Founding Director, Kalinga Centre for Rainforest Ecology) presented on “Deaths in the Snakebite Capital of the World: India”.
- 3) **Mr. Gatkuoth Kai** (Technical Director, Disaster Risk Reduction, African Union) presented on “Progress on the Implementation of the Africa Programme of Action (PoA) for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030”.
- 4) **Ms. Ashley Wolfington** (Interim Director, Humanitarian Program, IPPF) presented on “Using the MISP to Reduce Excess Mortality and Morbidity in Humanitarian Crisis”.
- 5) **Dr. Afsana Alamgir Khan** (Deputy Program Manager, Communicable Disease Control, Government of Bangladesh) presented on “Avoidable Malaria Deaths in Bangladesh in 2020”.

The panel of speakers was introduced by Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennett, along with a short speech on the concept of avoidable deaths and its usefulness in disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management.

In order to analyse the immediate impact of this Special Session, two methods were used. First, two-point poll surveys were used. Second, a feedback form using Qualtrics, an online survey tool.

The polls (first and second) were held at two different points within the Special Session.

The first poll was conducted before the presentation of Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennett and the invited speakers. The first Poll consisted of two questions:

- 1) Do you have any prior knowledge on avoidable deaths?
- 2) Based on your current knowledge (i.e., up to the point of starting this Special Session), please rate your current level of confidence on the usefulness of the topics, where 1= not at all confident, and 5= very confident.

The second poll was conducted after the last speaker, Dr Afsana Alamgir Khan’s presentation. This poll consisted of only one question. This question was a repetition of Question 2 of the first poll.

- 3) After attending this Special Session, how would you rate your level of confidence on the usefulness of the topics, where 1= not at all confident, and 5= very confident.

Results

28 participants took part in the first poll and the results for Questions 1 and 2 are as follows.

Question 1 (see **Figure 1**)

- 16 participants (57%) answered “yes”
- 8 participants (29%) answered “a little”
- 4 participants (14%) answered “no”.

Figure 1: Question 1 of Poll 1

1. Do you have any prior knowledge on avoidable deaths?



Question 2 (see **Figure 2**)

- 1 participant (4%) responded “only slightly confident”
- 3 participants (11%) responded “somewhat confident”
- 11 participants (39%) responded “moderately confident”
- 13 participants (46%) responded “very confident”. Please see Figure 2:

Figure 2: Question 2 of Poll 1

2. Based on your current knowledge i.e up to the point of starting this Special Session, please rate your current level of confidence on the usefulness of the topics, where 1=not at all confident, and 5 = very confident



For the second poll, 20 participants took part, and the results for Question 3 are as follows.

- 7 participants (35%) responded “moderately confident”
- 13 participants (65%) responded “very confident”

Analysis

By conducting the poll at two different points within the Special Session, it is possible to compare the data in order to understand the impact of this Special Session.

According to the first poll, 39% of respondents were ‘moderately confident’ and 46% were ‘very confident’ ‘based on their current knowledge on avoidable deaths’ (i.e., up to the point of starting this Special Session). According to the second poll, 35% of respondents suggested that they were ‘moderately confident’, which is a reduction of 4% from the first poll. On the other hand, 65% of the respondents thought that they are ‘very confident’ after attending the Special Session. This is an increase of 19% from the first poll.

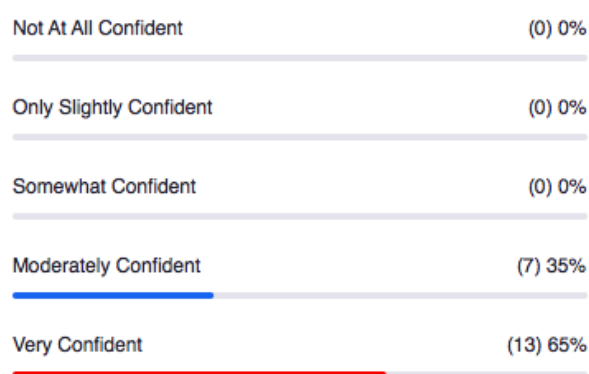
For the first poll, the total number of participants were 32, of which 87% took part. Therefore, the non-response rate was 23%. For the second poll, the total number of participants were 24, of which 83% took part. Therefore, non-response rate was 17%.

Although the two Presidents of ADN encouraged the participants to partake in the polls in order to increase the response rate, the reasons for the non-responses are unknown. That said, the response rate of >80% is an indication that the participants proactively engaged with the two-point poll surveys. Furthermore, all the participants enjoyed learning the outcome of the results immediately. Participants, themselves, were also surprised to see the outcome.

Nevertheless, there are several limitations to using this method. Qualitative or subjective inputs are difficult to gather through these quick poll surveys. Also, if a participant does not have smart phone or other advanced phone screen, the poll survey can exclude participation. To overcome these limitations, all registered participants were emailed the link to the feedback form. This feedback form consisted of both closed and open-ended questions.

Figure 3: Question 1 of Poll 2

After attending the Special Session, how would you rate your level of confidence on the usefulness of the topics discussed, where 1=not at all confident, and 5 = very confident



Results of the online Qualtrics feedback forms

A total of 19 participants filled out the feedback form. Results for each question are as follows:

2.2 How would you rate the Special Session in terms of the content and information you received?

- 16 participants answered, 'highly satisfactory' (84.21%)
- 3 participants answered, 'satisfactory' (15.78%)
- 0 people answered, 'not satisfactory' (0%)

2.3 How would you rate the Special Session in terms of its facilitation?

- 13 participants answered, 'highly satisfactory' (68.42%)
- 6 participants answered, 'satisfactory' (31.57%)

Analysis

Overall, a majority of the participants (84.21%) rated the Special Session 'highly satisfactory' in terms of the content and information presented. Some of the comments received from the participants are as follows:

- Marvellous job!
- Very informative presentations.
- Timely initiative
- I would like to participate in such sessions in the future too. It is a privilege to learn from the experiences and research findings of international experts.
- There was time for question. The moderator or chair of the session was not flexible.
- Thank you very much for the invite. I would be pleased to join you in your next sessions.
- Thank you ADN for mobilizing all the specialists.
- For a wider and inclusive benefit, such sessions should be conducted in other languages e.g Arabic, French, Spanish etc (or least translation be done during sessions)
- Very nice and fruitful for me.